

BBAA Astronomy Club meeting December 2, 2021, at Tidewater Community College, room JC-13. Also broadcast on Zoom.

George Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM (Shawn Loescher is ill)

Vice President Events Report (read by George Reynolds):

December 2021

- BBAA Club Meeting 12/2 @ TCC 7:30 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 12/3
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 12/4 5:00 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 12/10
- BBAA Annual Anniversary Luncheon, 12/11 @ Stripers Restaurant at Waterside, Norfolk, 12 PM
- Girls on the Run Star Power 5k 12/12 @ Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA. 7:00 AM
- Saturday "SUN"day@ Elizabeth River Park 12/18 @ 10 AM

January 2022

- BBAA Club Meeting 1/6 @ TBD 7:30 PM
- Saturday "SUN"day@ Elizabeth River Park 1/15 @ 10 AM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 1/21
- Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park, 1/22 5:00 PM
- Corn Watch @ Cornland Park, 1/28
- Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation State Park, 1/29

As a note, please RSVP your attentions to attend these events on the Night Sky Network, BBAA calendar page.

<http://backbayastro.org/calendar.php>

Secretary's report (read by Jeff Thornton)

The report recapped the November meeting of the Back Bay Amateur Astronomers from November 4th, 2021.

Treasurer's Report: (Richard Roberts):

- General Fund: \$5,371.36
- Primary Scholarship Fund: \$960.29
- GJ Scholarship Fund: \$ 604.00
- Total Funds: \$6,935.65
- Expenses: \$5,783.99
- Balance: \$6,935.65
- 170 Dues paid in full members
- 4 Honorary Members
- 13 Associate Members w/AL
- 2 Associate Members

- 151 Regular Members
- 170 Total Members on Roster

Scholarship Report:

Waiting on funds and letters advertising the scholarships will be sent out to the schools in February 2022.

Astronomical League Report: (Bruce Powers)

In the past, the AL reports would go over to the AL coordinator and then they would be sent on to the Astronomical League. Bruce would now like everyone to just sent the reports to the AL coordinator without using him as the middleman.

New Business:

We now have four items up for the Georgie June Scholarship Raffle. They are:

- 7.2 to 21.6mm Eyepiece
- Raspberry Pi magic mirror
- Apertura AD10 Dobsonian 10" Telescope
- Skyglow Broadband filter

Tickets will be \$10, and we hope to sell 400. Each officer will be given 100 tickets.

Bruce Powers has a proposal to reconstitute revive and relocate the East Coast Star Party to Chippokes state park. The proposed way ahead for a BBAA "ECSP Chippokes 2022 committee" proposed at the BBAA meeting 2 Dec 21 to continue considering these ideas is as follows:

(1) Conduct a Zoom call with the following people: Stephanie Allen of Staunton River State Park, Jayme Hanzak of the Chapel Hill NC Astronomical Society (CHAOS), Shawn Loescher, George Reynolds, Bruce Powers, and any other interested BBAA parties that want to help with this committee. This meeting could occur in Dec. 2021. Intent would be to revisit my email ideas of 12 October with Stephanie and Jayme. I already discussed these ideas with both of them on Oct 7, 2021 at the Staunton River Star Party. I can send the initial email to coordinate the Zoom call:

Stephanie Allen ,Staunton River State Park and VA Department of Conservation and Resources (DCR) stephanie.allen@dcr.virginia.gov, 434-572-1988

Jayme Hanzak, Chapel Hill NC Astronomical Society (CHAOS), spacenuut@gmail.com, 919-644-2564(H), 919-358-8929

(2) Once the first Zoom is complete and based on some Chippokes DCR contacts from Ms. Allen or any Chippokes contacts from BBAA club members, arrange a face-to-face meeting / site visit with Chippokes. This meeting will most likely not occur until the after the new year 2022 starts.

Observing Reports:

A much-anticipated comet – C/2021 A1 (Leonard) has started to become visible in the early morning skies and a few astronomers are getting good views of it. Around December 14-16, 2021, Comet C/2021 A1 (Leonard) will become visible just after sunset, very low in the southwest horizon, as seen from the U.S. per Eddie Irizarry and Deborah Byrd of EarthSky <https://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/comet-leonard-might-become-2021s-brightest-2022/>

Eddie Parris reports that he was able to see the launch of a Space-X rocket that was launched from Kennedy Space Center in his backyard in Virginia Beach! He was able to get a photo on his cellphone camera and had it on display at the meeting.

Feature presentation:

Telescopes buying 101. George Reynolds gave us a presentation on telescopes, which ones are worth the money and which ones to avoid. George has three handouts that were given out at the meeting, and he is making them available to anyone who wants one via email. You can request one from George at, pathfinder027 at Yahoo.com. The first handout is advice on buying a telescope for a child. Some of the quotes are as follows. “Thinking about buying a scope for a child? Age counts, although not as much as you might think, bright, interested, eight-year-old can make more use of enjoy more and learn more with a telescope than a disinterested 14 year old. The only real problems associated is with child's age or how much weight and size the child can lift and carry and how much money you're willing to spend. How much does the child knows is the best assurance you have that interest will last as the amount of effort he or she puts into learning about it”. The second handout is eight pages long and has buying advice for people new to astronomy and wanting to purchase their first real telescope. The third handout regards what not to buy like department store telescopes with plastic lenses. Regarding binoculars, never buy anything having a red or so-called Ruby coatings or amber gold-tinted coatings, this is a certain indication of inferior unsuitable instruments that won't satisfy the viewing requirements of astronomy.

Club end of year recap:

George Reynolds presented a recap of all the events that the BBAA participated in throughout the year. Club Members drove 3685 miles and volunteered a total of 497 hours at club events. From the year from December 2020 to November 2021 we had 7 Saturday SUN days, 6 Skywatch, 5 Garden Stars, 3 Boardwalks astronomy, and 14 Special request events.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

